

REMARKS

The office action of June 27, 2008, has been carefully considered.

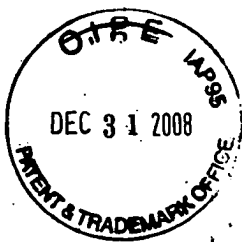
It is noted that claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over EP 0045658.

Claim 7 is allowed.

In view of the Examiner's object to and rejection of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 1-6.

With the cancellation of the rejected claims and the indicated allowability of claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.



HM-623

Respectfully submitted,

By

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 29, 2008.

By:

Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: December 29, 2008